Group Insurance Scheme for beedi workers

2552. SHRI SUDARSHAN AKARAPU: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have launched a Group Insurance Scheme for the welfare of beedi workers in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the amount of subsidy given on the premium to be paid by the workers under the scheme; and

(d) the total number of beedi workers, covered under the scheme as on 31st December, 2004, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI K. CHANDRASEKHAR RAO): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A Group Insurance Scheme for beedi workers is being run in collaboration with the Life Insurance Corporation of India Ltd. (LIC). The benefits include an insurance cover of Rs. 10,000/- in case of natural death and Rs. 25,000/- in case of accidental death.

(c) Beedi workers are not required to pay any amount as premium for participating in the Group Insurance Scheme for beedi workers. Presently, the premium is payable at the rate of Rs. 60/- per annum per beedi worker, which is shard equally by the Labour Welfare Organization and the social security fund of the Finance Ministry maintained by the LIC.

(d) All beedi workers who have been issued identity cards, which are around 40.56 lakh are covered under the Group Insurance Scheme except those who are members of Employees' Provident Fund Organization (EPFO) and are covered by their scheme. State-wise figures are not maintained. •

Recovery target from P.F. defaulters

2553. SHRI ANAND SHARMA: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) what steps are contemplated by Government for recovery of PF from defaulters and the recovery targets for the next six months; and